



# *City of Champions*

## *Linda M. Balzotti- Mayor*

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### ***Mayor Balzotti launches Late Night Basketball League*** *Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, and City team up for new initiative*

BROCKTON – Mayor Linda M. Balzotti announces the launch of a new basketball league designed to engage more Brockton teens at night.

“This program will help us address the needs of our community,” said Balzotti. “Our young people are looking for ways to engage in positive activities all the time. Midnight basketball can reach an entire group of teenagers that we might be missing because they have jobs or other responsibilities that prohibit them from taking part in our other programs and activities.”

The program will start Wednesday, July 14 at 10 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 233 Warren Ave. Games will continue to be held on Wednesday nights through August 25 from 10 p.m. to midnight.

Practices will be held Monday nights, beginning July 19 from 7-8 p.m. at the Old Colony YMCA Youth Division, 465 Main St.

The idea for the program grew out of a need identified through the efforts of outreach workers involved in the Safe Corners Program, an initiative funded through the Shannon Grant that is aimed at reaching out to the youth of Brockton, and connecting them to resources. It attempts to take youth out of negative situations and engage them in positive activities.

One of those outreach workers, John Williams, is coordinating the program, in conjunction with the Mayor's Office.

“The idea was to have a safe activity for the young of Brockton; something that's positive, something that's competitive,” said Williams.

He hopes to attract enough teenagers to have six teams of 15 players.

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"I think it is wonderful that both the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA stepped up and assisted with this venture," said Williams.

Each organization donated the use of their facilities to host games and practices.

"This program provides an opportunity for us to give teens a chance to take part in a positive activity with adult mentors in a safe environment," said Jay Miller, Assistant Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club in Brockton.

The Youth Branch of the Old Colony YMCA was happy to provide practice space for the league.

The league is open to boys and girls. Each player will receive a t-shirt for their participation. Trophies will be given out at the conclusion of the program.

"A big part of the City's role is to keep our kids safe, so they can become positive members of the society that have bright futures. This program does that," said Koren Cappiello, Brockton's Director of Community and Social Services. "This league lets Brockton teens know we care about them by trying to provide a program they want, when they need it. It shows them there's another option for their present and future."

Funding for the program is coming from a grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

For more information concerning the Late Night Basketball, please contact the Program Coordinator John Williams at (508) 345-4701 or call the Mayor's Office at (508) 580-7123. You can also obtain additional information by visiting the City of Brockton's website at [www.brockton.ma.us](http://www.brockton.ma.us).

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